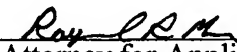


## REMARKS

This case is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/878,940. The specification has been amended to recite the related applications information and to correct some typographical errors. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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